BOOM! STUDIOS

LAPHAM LAPHAM JENKINS #1

UNDERHEIST™

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ROSIE?... JULIO'S SISTER?

NO, MAN. THAT'S **HOT** ROSIE.

LOUNGE

GIF

THIS IS **ROSIE**, LUIS'S **AUNT**. THE OLD BAG WHO CLEANS NIGHTS AT THE **COLE BUILDING**.

C'MON, **PRIMO**... MY WIFE'S SISTER'S HUSBAND'S NEPHEW'S GREAT AUNT...

SHE WAS AT CAMILA'S QUINCEAÑERA...

BABETTS

PREMIUM

TAXI

THE ONE WHERE GABRIELLA FOUND OUT YOU WERE **CHEATING** ON HER...

...AND YOU GOT **SO** DRUNK YOU THREW UP ON MY STEREO...

PROBABLY WHY I DON'T REMEMBER.

WELL, **ANYWAY**... LUIS IS HER NEPHEW. SHE TOLD HIM AND HE TOLD **ADOLFO**...

WHO TOLD HIS WIFE **BEATRIZ**, CUZ SHE LIKES TRUE CRIME SHIT.

BEATRIZ, YOUR WIFE'S SISTER?

YOU GOT IT!

AND AFTER ALL THAT TELEPHONE, YOU'RE SURE YOU HEARD IT RIGHT?

YOU'RE SURE SHE OVERHEARD THEM PLANNING A **HEIST**?

SO WE HAD ALL THE EQUIPMENT SET UP...

...THEN OUT OF NOWHERE...

...THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF MY HEAD ALL STAND UP.

I PUT MY BOOT ON THE RAIL, AND I COULD **FEEL** THE VIBRATION.

SOME WIRES GOT CROSSED AT SIGNAL.

THEY WERE SENDING THE ENTIRE MORNING COMMUTE DOWN MY LINE.

DID ANYONE GET HURT?

HUH?

NO... NO, NO.

JUST A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE LATE FOR WORK.

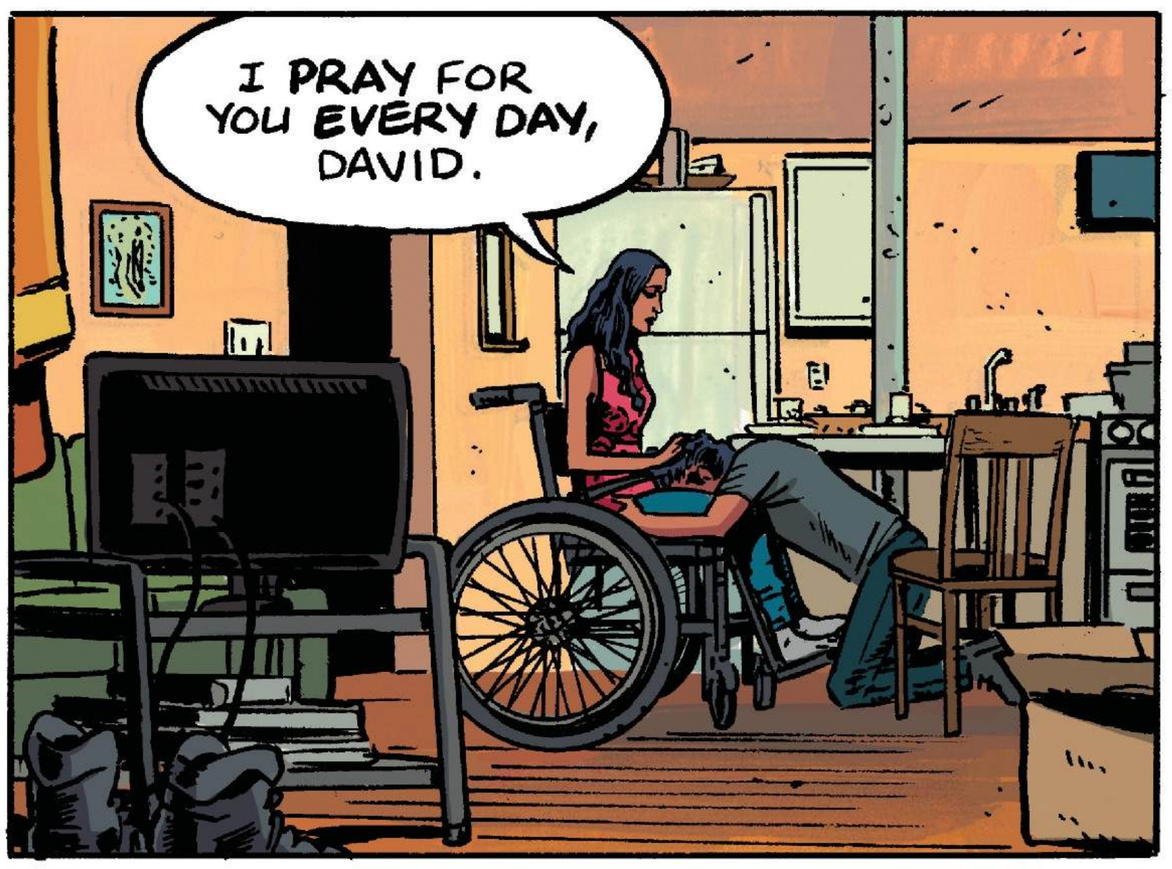
GABRIELLA... UM...

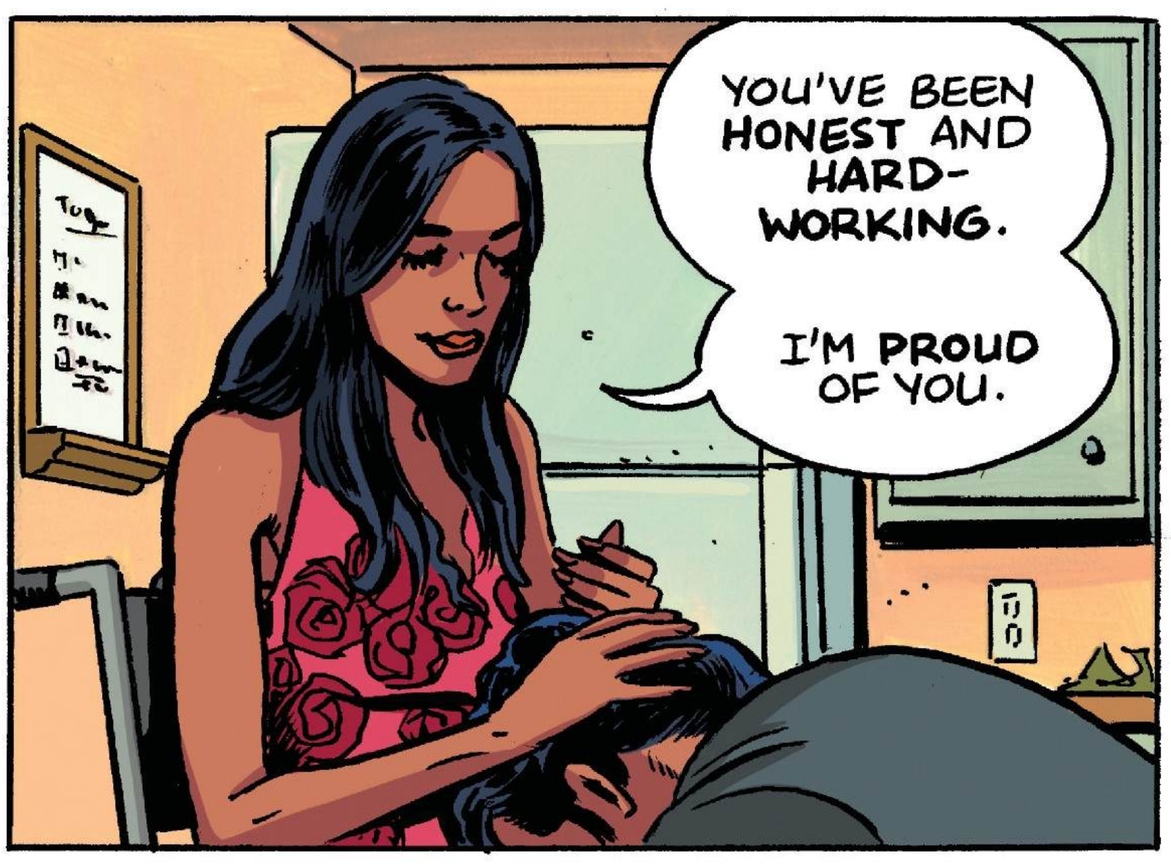
I THINK I MIGHT GET A **RAISE** SOON... A **PROMOTION.**

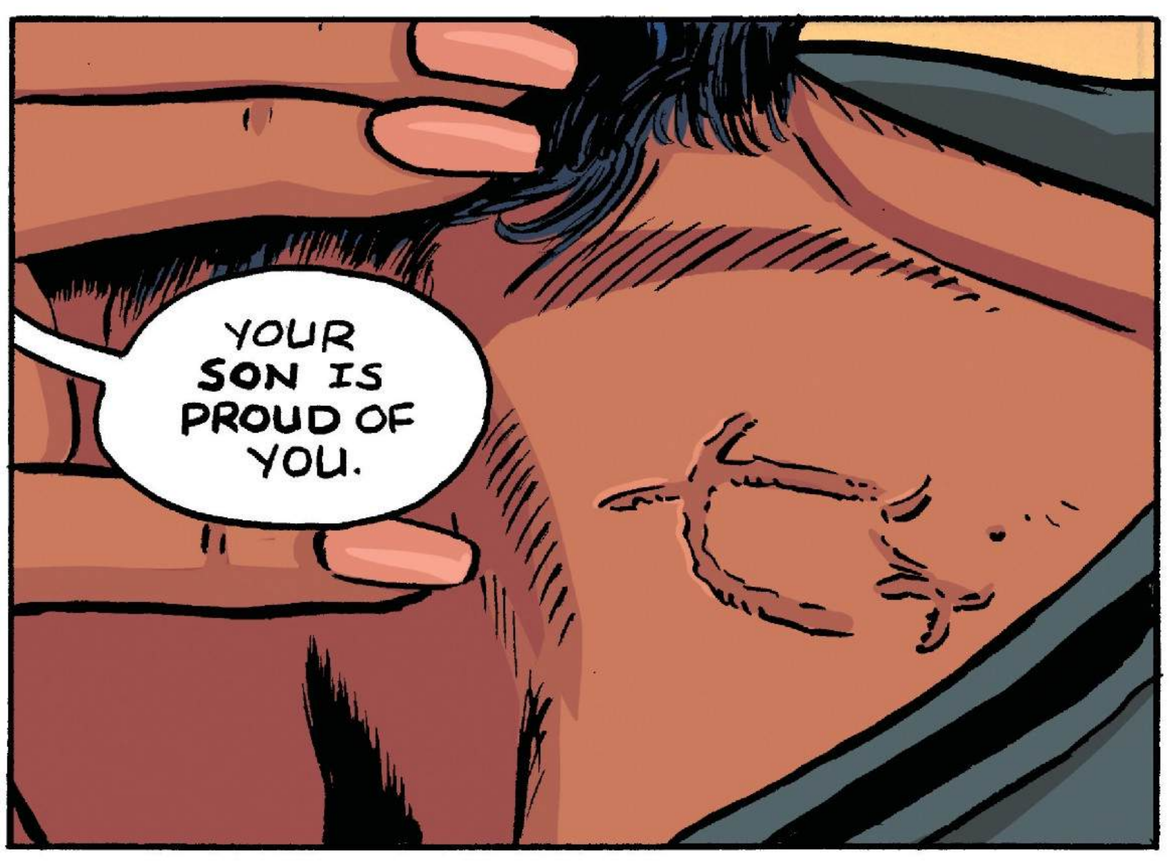
DAVID?
REALLY?

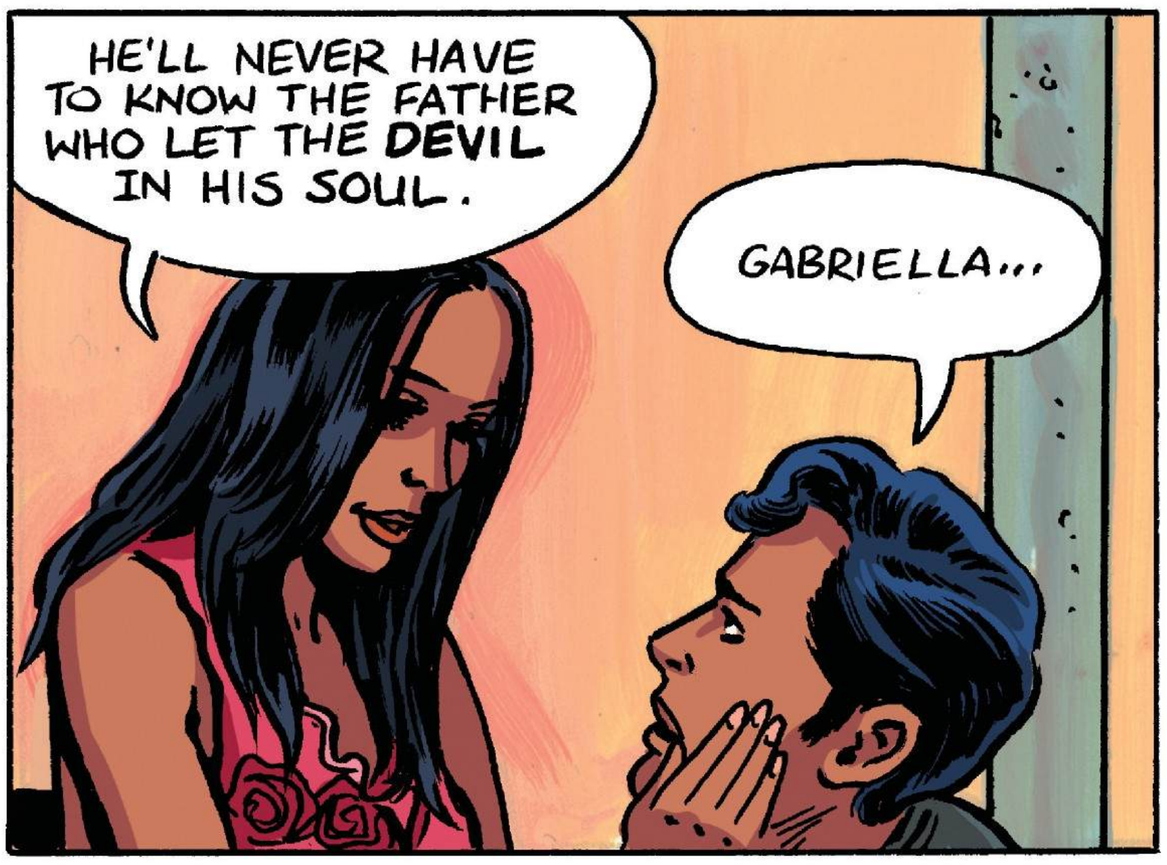
DOC'S GONNA RECOMMEND ME FOR TRACK SUPERINTENDENT WHEN OLD MAN HOLLY RETIRES.

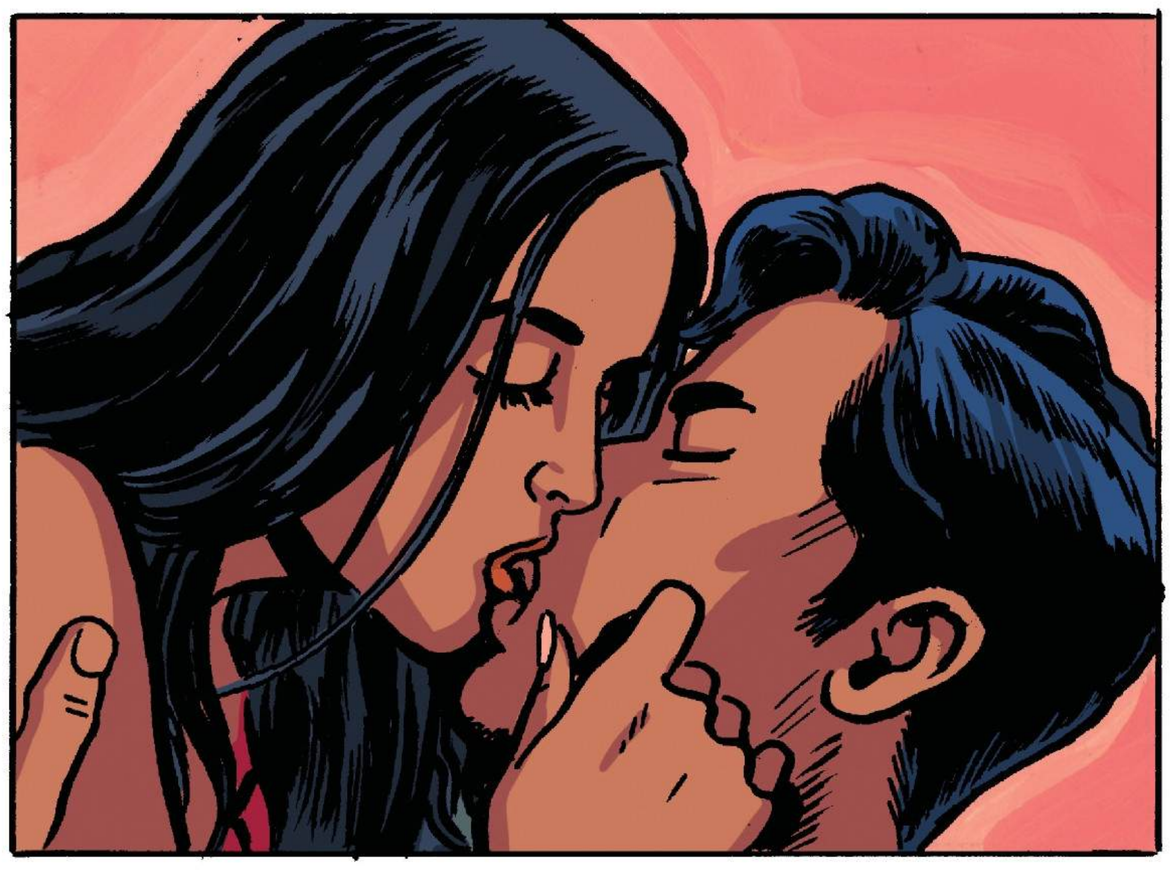
I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY OFF THE BOOKIE. NO MORE KNOCKS AT THREE A.M.
MAYBE WE'LL EVEN GET THAT TRIP TO ARUBA.


I PRAY FOR YOU EVERY DAY, DAVID.


YOU'VE BEEN HONEST AND HARD-WORKING.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.


YOUR SON IS PROUD OF YOU.


HE'LL NEVER HAVE TO KNOW THE FATHER WHO LET THE DEVIL IN HIS SOUL.
GABRIELLA...



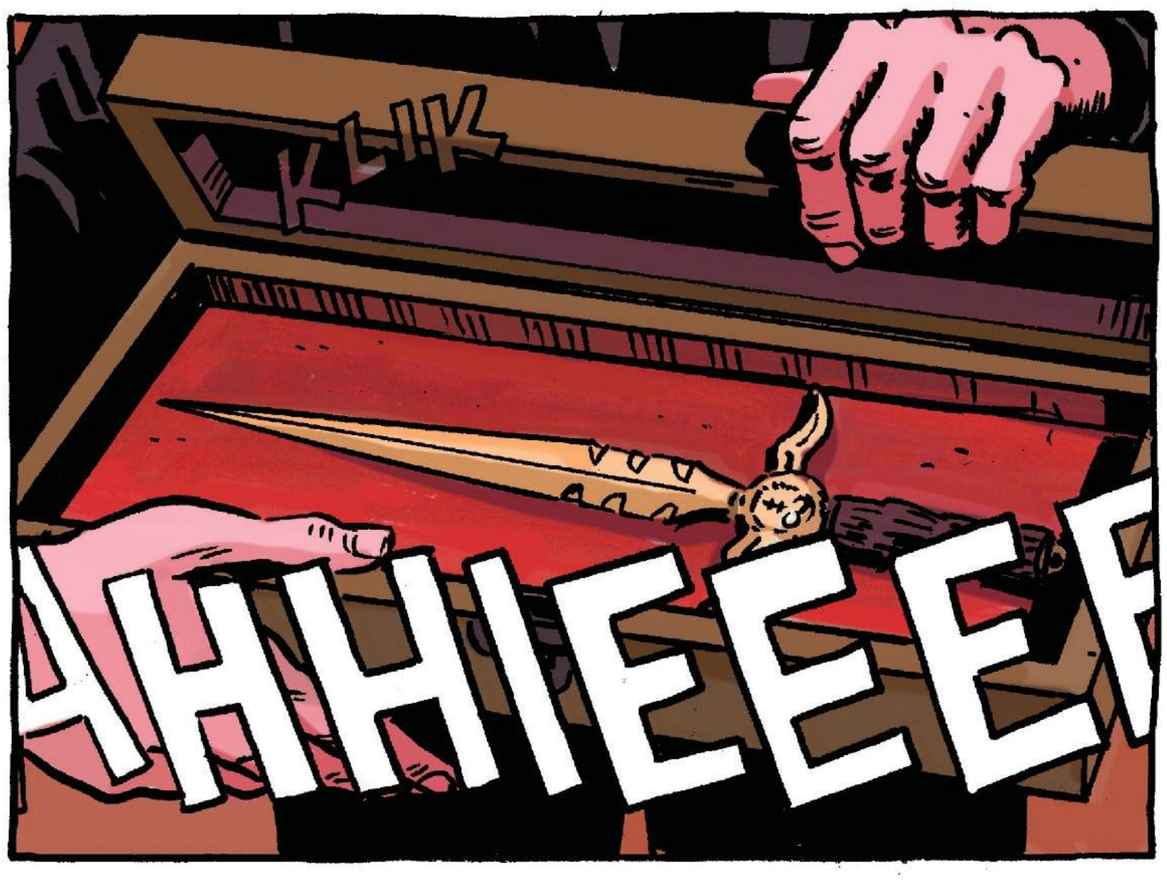
KAFF
SURELY BY NOW YOU MUST BE TIRED OF HIM, TOO?

NO?
GIVE HIM ONE MORE CHANCE. PLEASE... JUST ONE...
PLEASE...

NOT HIM, DEAR. HE'S USED UP. BUT YOU...
ARE YOU WILLING TO BET ON HIM?

LEAVE HER--
GUH
LEAVE HER THE FUCK ALONE...

NO. STOP PLEASE--
--STOAAAAAAAH


KLIK
AHHIEEEEF

EEEE
GUHAHHHHHH

huhh...
huhhh...

WHEEE

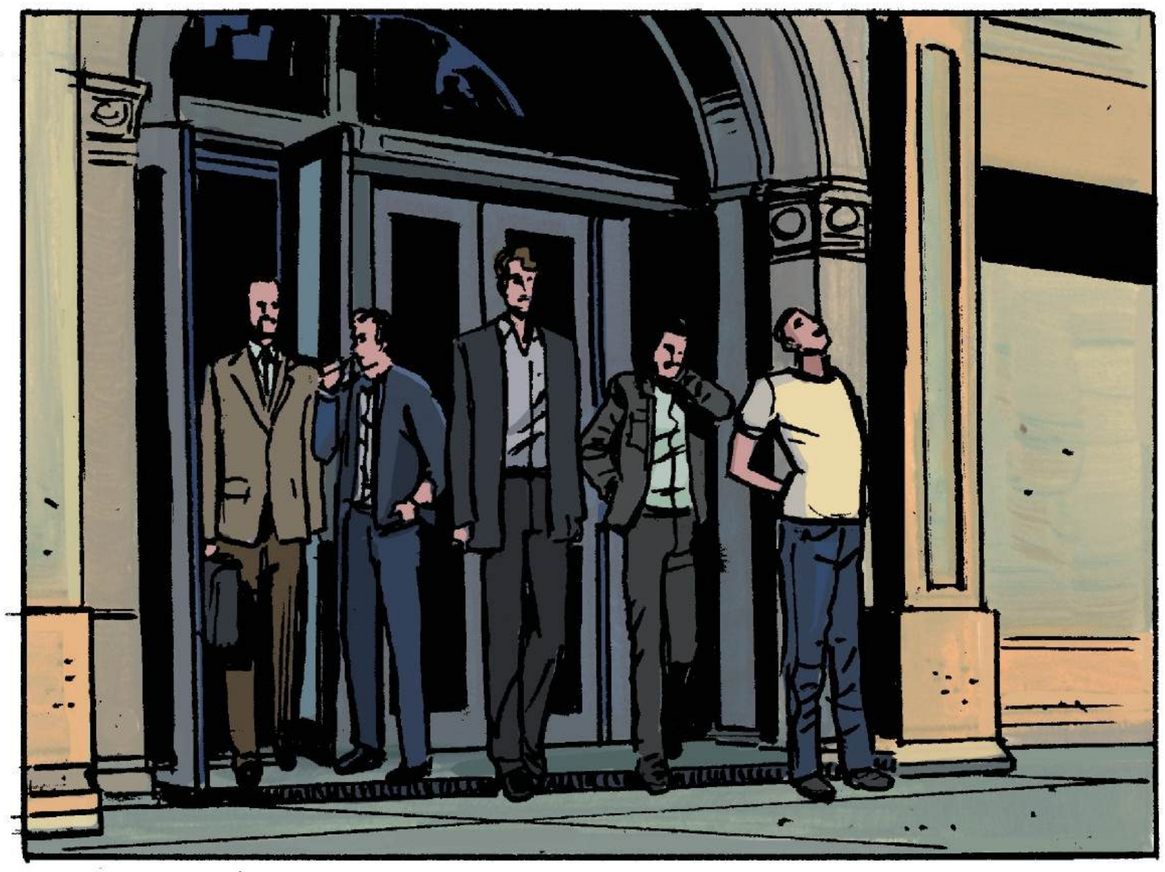
EEEEE

KLIK

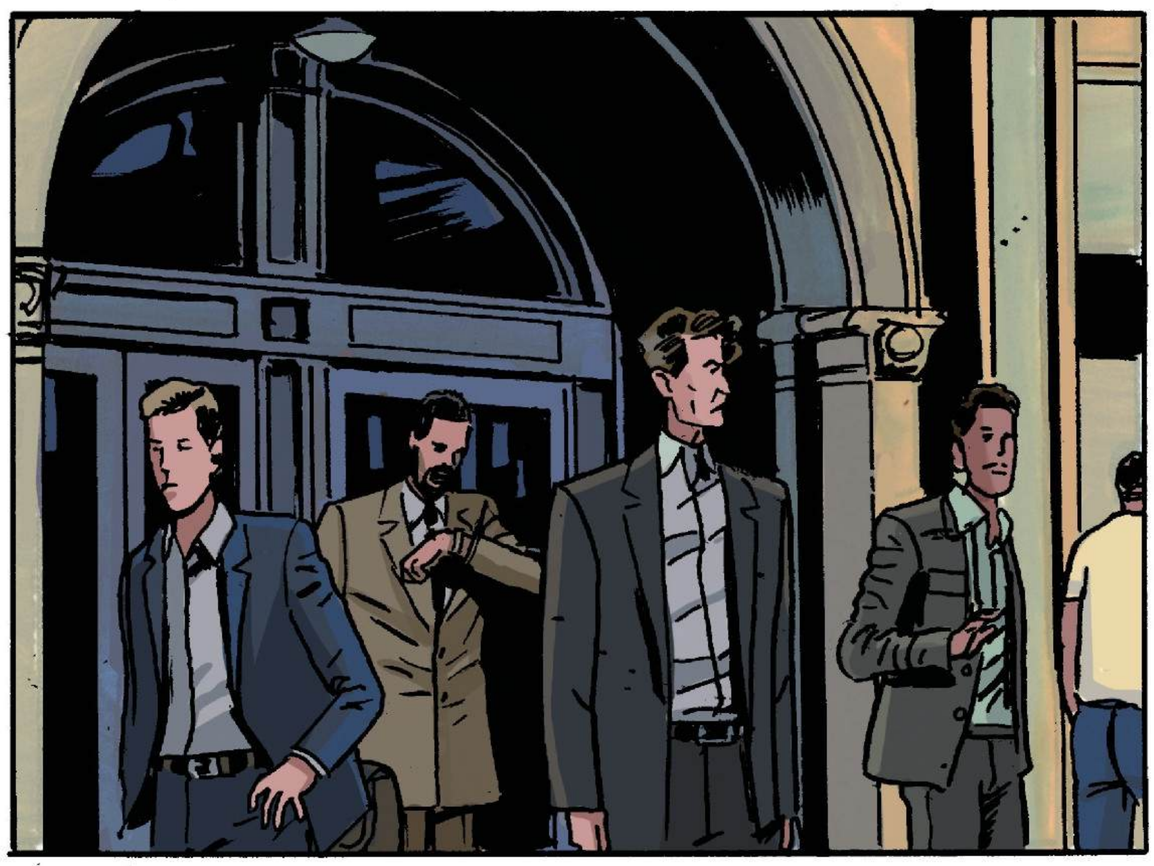
COLE BLDG.

COLE BLDG

FUCK ME...



SALE
on!

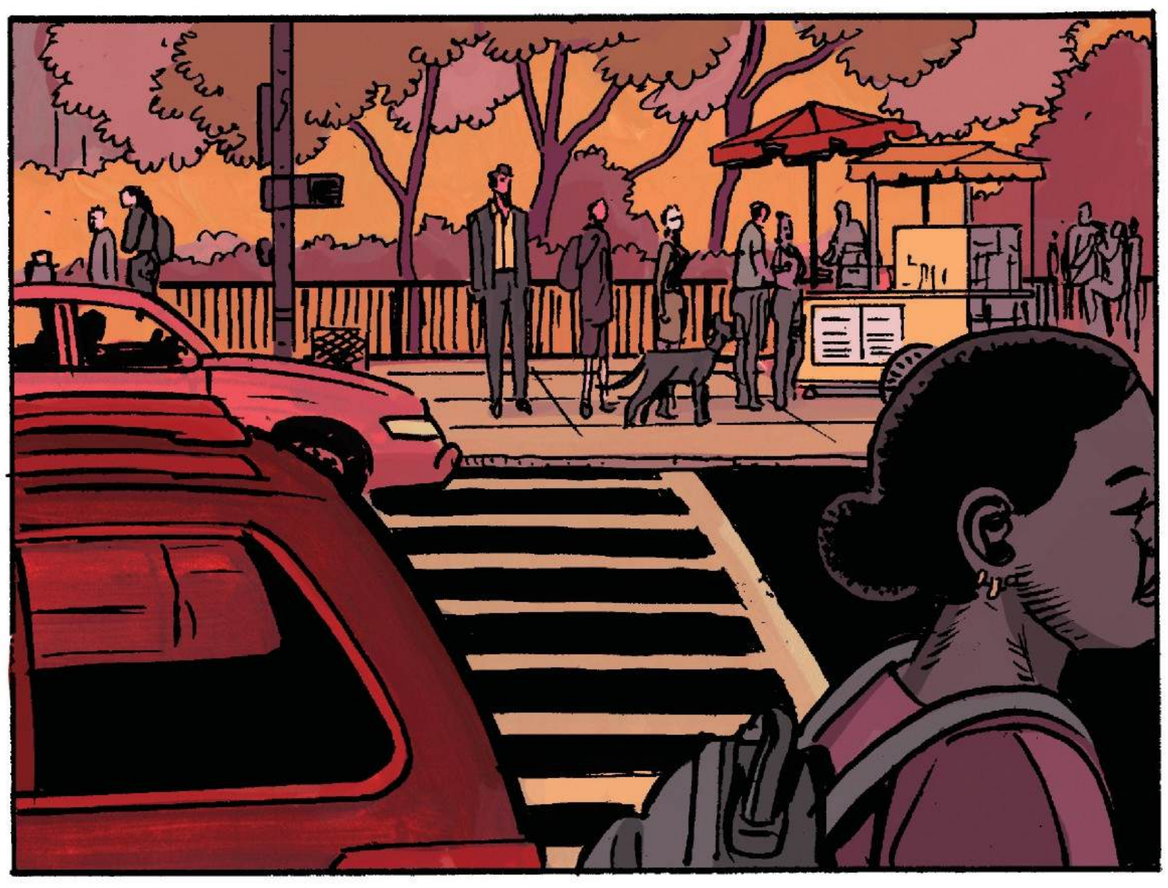


DOC?
IT'S DAVID.

I NEED TO TAKE A SICK DAY...

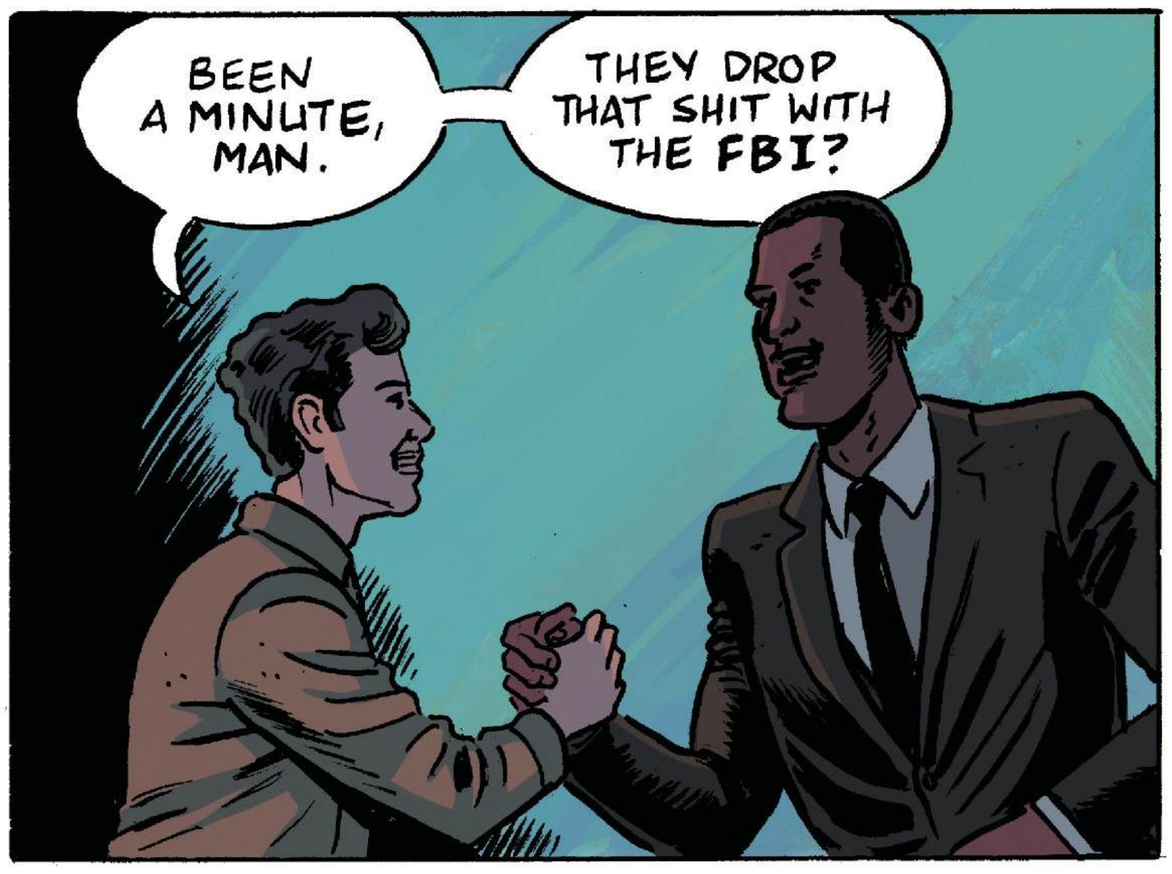
Collisto's
SHIT.
SHIT.

NNN...
SHIT.
SKRCH
SKRCH
SKRCH



DAVID!
YO!

BRO!
OSCAR!


BEEN A MINUTE, MAN.
THEY DROP THAT SHIT WITH THE FBI?

SEC. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.
THEY ALL SPELL P-I-G TO ME.

I LOVE YOU, MAN.
I'M A DAMN PARIAH. AND YOU REALLY DON'T GIVE A SHIT.

PAYTON AND BURKE EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

AND YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTOR.

I NEED TO GET ME SOME OF THIS WHITE COLLAR KIND OF FALL FROM GRACE.

SO... WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THERE'S NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, OSCAR.

I GO TO WORK. PAY THE BOOKIE. PAY THE RENT... GABRIELLA FLUSHES ANOTHER YEAR OF HER LIFE DOWN THE TOILET.

SKRICH

SKRICH

YOU KNOW I'D HELP IF I COULD. THEY HAVE **ALL** MY ACCOUNTS FROZEN. I ONLY HAVE A **JOB** BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SOLD ANYBODY OUT.

AND A ROOF OVER MY HEAD CUZ **KARISHMA** AGREED TO HOLD OFF ON SELLING THE APARTMENT.

THE SAME KARISHMA WHO TRIED TO CUT OFF YOUR--

ALL SHE CARES ABOUT **NOW** IS THAT THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT KEEPS COMING.

AND SHE GETS TO PERIODICALLY SEE ME **CRY** LIKE A **SIX-YEAR-OLD.**

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I MIGHT HAVE A WAY OUT?

YOU STUMBLE ON A LEPRECHAUN WITH A QUARTER BILLION IN GOLD?

COME TO **RUTHIE'S** THURSDAY NIGHT.

HONK HONK

JESUS...

BEEEEEEP

RRRRRRRR--

FUCK YOU.

VVVRRRR

KLAKKLAKKLAKKLAK

DOC?...

...REMEMBER YOU SAID WHEN OLD MAN HOLLY RETIRED YOU'D--

IT'S **TOO** SOON FOR THE GUYS UPSTAIRS, DAVID.

I THOUGHT IT'D BE TWO/THREE MORE **YEARS** BEFORE HOLLY RETIRED.

YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT FOR **ME** TO HANG IT UP AND GO LIVE WITH JANICE AND THE GRANDKIDS IN **ARIZONA.**

WHICH, AFTER THE DIVORCE AIN'T GONNA BE TILL I'M IN **DEPENDS.**

HEY. BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDES, REMEMBER?
YEAH, DOC.
'COURSE.
DOC?
CAN YOU MEET ME AT **RUTHIE'S** AFTER WORK?
YOU FALL OFF THE WAGON?
JUST...
...SOMETHING I'M THINKING ABOUT.
SKTT
...A CRAZY IDEA.
SKIT
OSCAR. DOC.
DOC. OSCAR.
DOC'S MY BOSS AND MY **SPONSOR**.
HE'S KNOCKED MORE SENSE INTO ME THESE LAST **THREE** YEARS THAN THE **HOLY BIBLE**.
THAT WHY WE'RE HERE, DAVID?
T'KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU?

AM I OUT ALREADY?

JUAN.

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GIVE THEM THE--

WHAT THE FUCK?!

THIS IS LIL.

DON'T WORRY, PRIMO. SHE'S COOL. WE'LL NEED HER. SHE'S GOT EXPERIENCE.

YOU TELL 'EM ABOUT ROSIE YET?

WHO THE HELL IS ROSIE?

SIGH

JUAN AND I GOT SOME INTEL ON A HEIST BEING PLANNED ON ONE BANK IN MIDTOWN.

KRINK

THIS ALREADY SOUNDS FUCKING NUTS.

IT DOES, DOC. I KNOW IT DOES.

RUTHIE'S

EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE PART THAT I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD.

THEIR IN AND OUT IS THROUGH THE TUNNELS.

OUR TUNNELS.

AND YOU'RE PROPOSING WE...?

hee hee.

I'M PROPOSING WE **ROB** THEM.

THERE ARE **FIVE** OF THEM. THEY'RE **PROS.**

I STAKED OUT THE BUILDING WHERE THEY'RE PLANNING IT AND FOLLOWED THE **LEAD DOG.**

"HIS NAME IS **WEXLER. JOHN WEXLER...**"

WHEW

ICECREAM

IT'S GOOD TO BREATHE SOME **FRESH** AIR, Y'KNOW?

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?

RIGHT.

IT IS WHEN YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR DAYLIGHT HOURS LIKE A **RAT** UNDERGROUND.

WHAT'S IT LIKE DOWN THERE?

YOU TOOK HIM DOWN IN THE **TUNNELS?**

YOU'RE **HELPING** THEM?

DOC--

HE'S GETTING THEIR ROUTE.

TUNNELS GO DOWN EIGHT HUNDRED FEET.

FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY MILES OF TRACK. SIX THOUSAND MILES OF SEWERS. WATER. GAS.

IT'S A WHOLE **OTHER WORLD** DOWN HERE.

MMM...

JUST A STRAIGHT **GRAB** AND **RUN**. LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

WE WATCH AND SEE HOW THEY MOVE THE MONEY.

IF WE SEE AN OPPORTUNITY, WE GRAB WHAT WE CAN AND DISAPPEAR.

HEY!

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.

DOC!

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK YOU CAN **RETIRE** AND MOVE TO **ARIZONA**.

CRAZY...

WHAT IF THEY DON'T LEAVE IT UNGUARDED?

WE WALK.

NO HARM. NO FOUL!

THIS IS **CRAZY**.

THIS IS HOW **CRIME** GETS DONE.

UNGH!

YOU BROUGHT YOUR FUCKING SIDE PIECE?!

COME ON, PRIMO... MAN--

YOU TWO HOOK UP BEFORE OR AFTER YOU TOLD HER ABOUT THE HEIST?

IT WAS AFTER.

DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT A TEAM PLAYER.

JUAN... GIVE US A MINUTE.

YOU WANT MY ADVICE, DAVID?

LEAVE HIM BEHIND ON THIS.

KUNK!

I DON'T WORK FOR THE BOOKIE NO MORE.

I JUST WANT TO BE PART OF THE TEAM.

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN PART OF A TEAM, LIL.

I WAS ON YOUR TEAM.

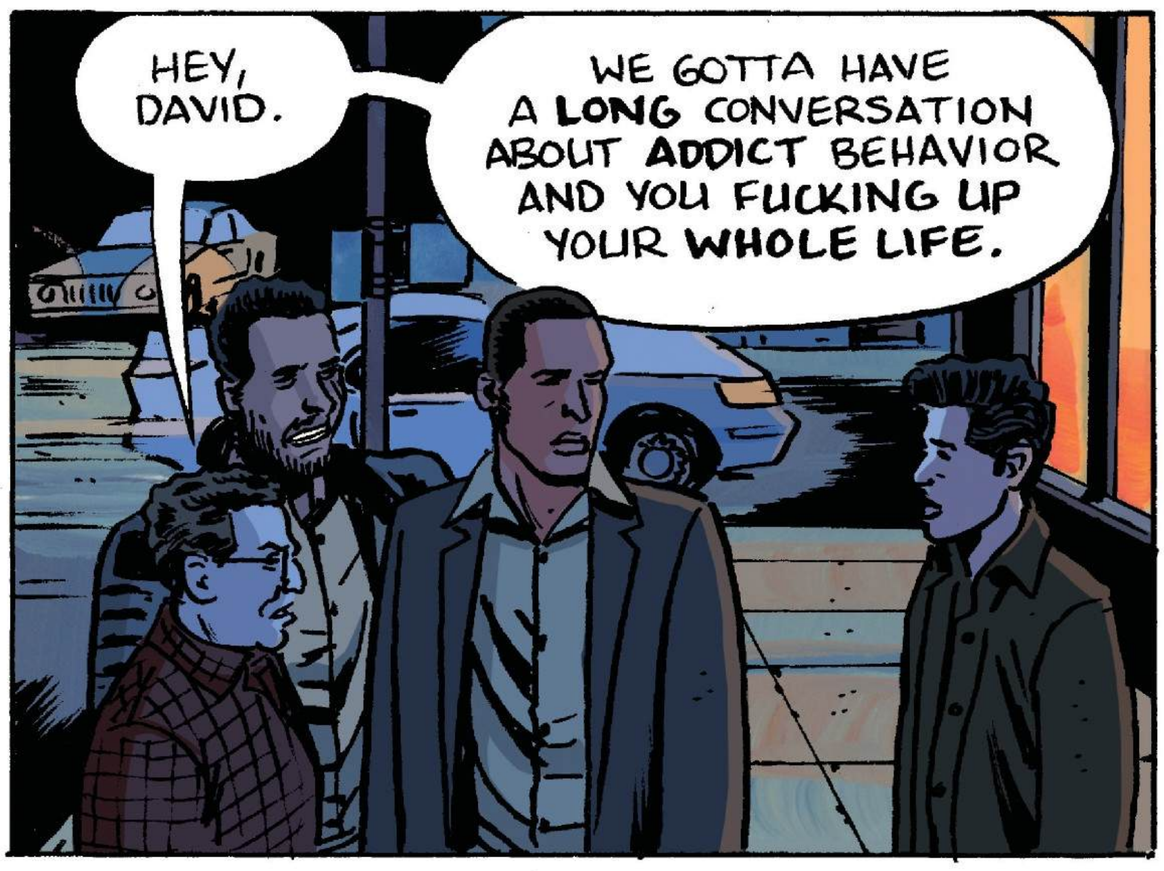
YOU KNIFED ME IN THE BACK.

TAKES ONE TO KNOW... HOW'S OL' GABRIELLA GETTING AROUND THESE DAYS?

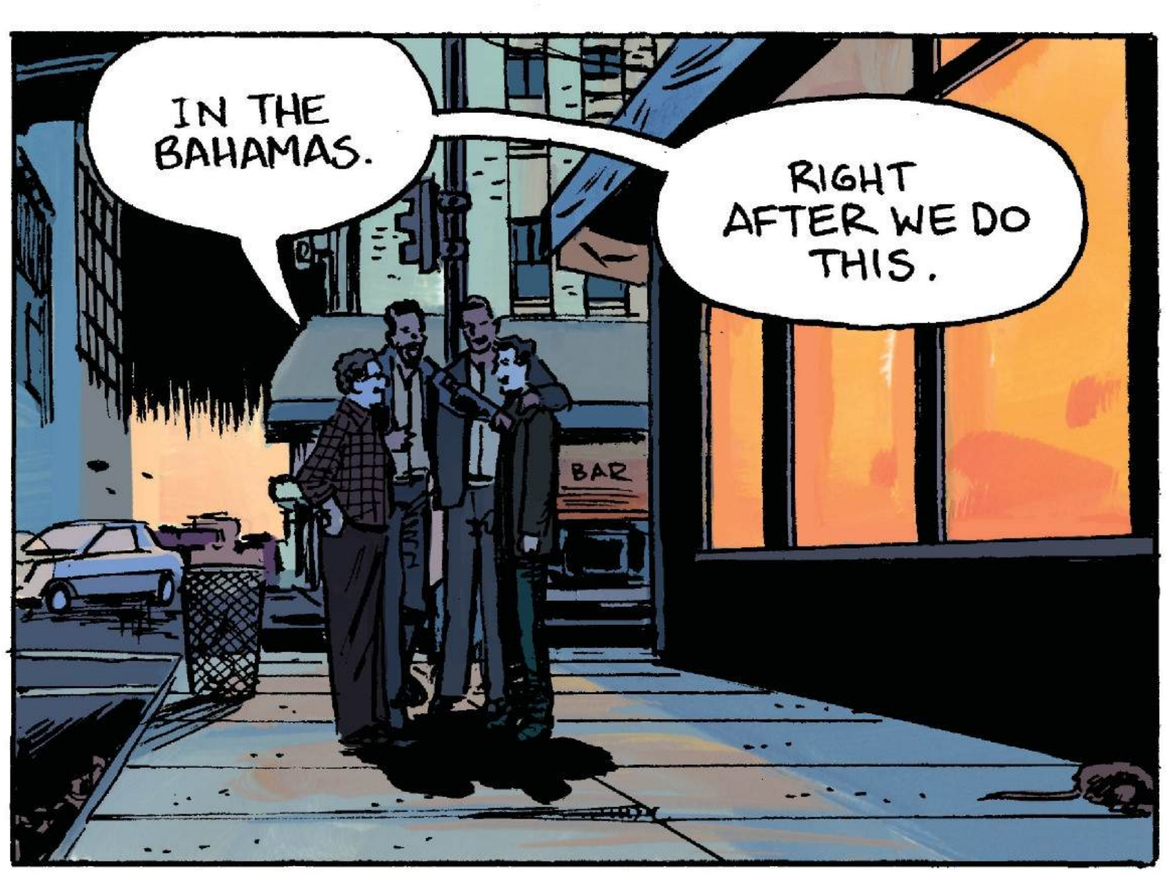
NN!

YOU CHANGED. WHY CAN'T I?

OR HAVE YOU?
I MEAN, WE'RE HERE, RIGHT?


HEY, DAVID.
WE GOTTA HAVE A LONG CONVERSATION ABOUT ADDICT BEHAVIOR AND YOU FUCKING UP YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

YEAH...
WHERE AND WHEN?


IN THE BAHAMAS.
RIGHT AFTER WE DO THIS.
BAR

THIRTY-THREE MORE MINUTES.

ANYTHING NOT DONE IS JUST WASTE.

WEX, IT'S **BARELY** TWO A.M.

THERE'S A REASON YOU'VE DONE TIME, MIKE.

STICK TO THE PLAN.

DON'T GET GREEDY.

KEEP WORKING. I'M GOING UP TO SEE HOW THEY'RE COMING WITH THE INNER VAULT.

ASSHOLE.

JUAN...

huhhh...
huhh...

MIKE!

GET UP HERE! PULLEY'S STUCK!

THOUGHT WE WERE ON A FUCKIN' SCHEDULE.

MIKE!

HOLD YOUR FUCKIN' HORSES!

CHK

E

ROUTE C. UPTOWN, STASH EVERYTHING LIKE WE SAID.
WE GOT IT.
GET TO THE JOB LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
SHIT.
WHAT?
OH...FUCK.
hunn...
COME ON!
HEY!
NNF!
NNF!
UFF!
BRATATAT
MOTHER-FLICKER!
WHAT THE FUCK, MAN?!
HEY!
DROP THAT SHIT!
heff...
LOOK OUT!

GODDAMN--
BRATATAT

BRATATAT
SHIT!

OTHER-
UCKERS!

LIL...

JUAN--
OH, JESUS.

GNH--
STAY THE FUCK PUT OR YOU'RE DEAD!
CRNCH

YOU'RE
UNNH...

KAFF
KAFF

OH...

CHRIST.

GNN...

I GOT YOU, MOTHER FUCKER!

GODDAMN BREAD TRAIL...

CRNCH

CRNCH

AHT!

TRIP

NNN!

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

NICE TRY, DUMBFUCK.

TALK AND I'LL DUMP YOU OFF AT THE HOSPITAL.

GUHH

TAKE... ME TO THE HOSPITAL... AND I'LL TALK.

I WAS A MEDIC, ASSHOLE. I KNOW FIELD MEDICINE.

I CAN KEEP YOU TOGETHER FOR AS LONG AS I NEED.

WHERE'S MY MONEY, AND WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED?

NN! NYA HH H

NAUGHHHH

JESUS.

KUNK

AHHHH--

AHHHHHHHHHH

Аннннннннннннннннннн.....

OH, GOD...

WHAT?

NOTHING.

COME ON...

...I KNOW A DOCTOR.

CAUTION

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BRZRKR SCREENWRITER AND
EISNER-NOMINATED WRITER

MATTSON TOMLIN

(A VICIOUS CIRCLE, THE BATMAN PART II)

HIT ARTIST

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A TRIBUTE TO KEITH GIFFEN

Without Keith Giffen there would be no BOOM! Studios.

Keith co-created Rocket Raccoon and the Blue Beetle that just got the big film release. He didn't create Drax: The Destroyer from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, but he conceptualized the version of the character used in the movies.

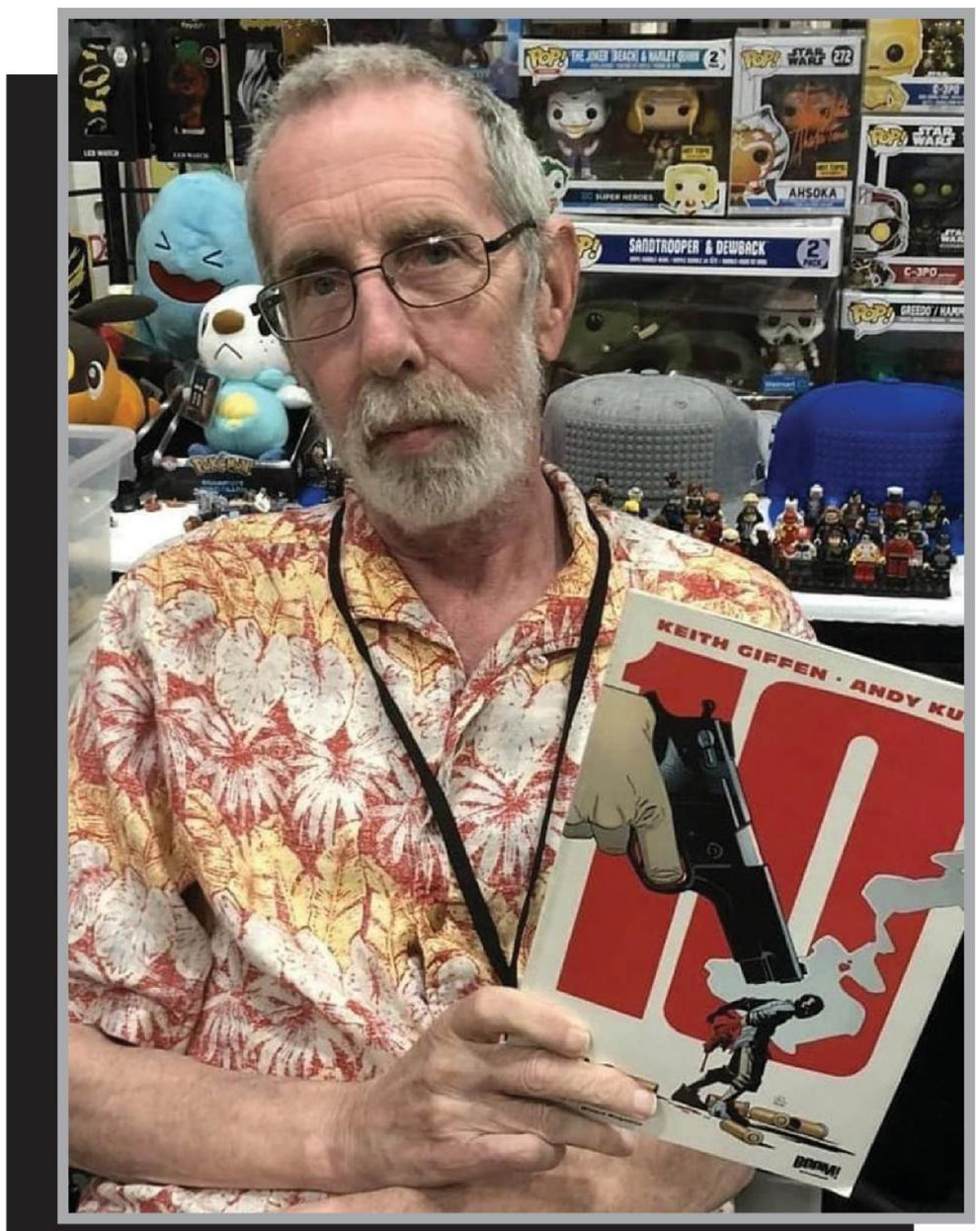


Photo by Dan Berry/ *The Convention Collective*

Before I met Keith, for 30 years I bought everything he wrote or drew. I was doing some work in Hollywood in the early 2000s and let it be known that if a comic book creator was curious to see if a Hollywood deal they were being offered was fair, they could bounce it off me for an opinion.

We struck up a friendship and he offered me a chance to write a new series at Image called *Dominion*. I never aspired to write comics. I actually tried to talk him out of it. But if you knew Keith, you'd know he was. . . stubborn might be the word.

So we created the series and Dave Elliott inked the second issue. Dave owned an older publishing label, Atomeka Press. I helped him and the late great Garry Leach revive it. While it was in motion, I called Keith and asked him to create a new series with J.M. DeMatteis, *Hero Squared*.

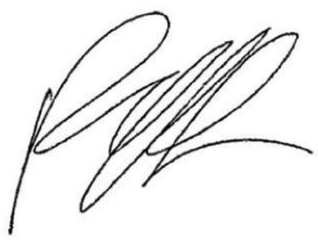
It was a hit. Or at least a big enough hit for us! Keith came to Los Angeles for a convention and I took him out for a beer. He spent the night convincing me to leave Atomeka Press and strike out on my own. Start my own company.

I spent the night explaining to him how many comic book companies fail. The next morning I woke up and said, "I can't believe a Hall of Fame living legend like Keith Giffen thinks I have talent and believes I could do this. . . Maybe I can?" I took a leap of faith I never would have without Keith's dogged determination to make me listen to him and refusal to back down.

No one knew who BOOM! was, but everyone knew who Keith was. Keith not only demanded I start BOOM!, he put his money where his mouth was and created series after series to support the fledgling endeavor. He stood side by side with me in the trenches.

You changed my life forever. I will forever be mystified by your belief in me, encouragement, patience, and support.

Thank you, Keith.



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